



NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

00R-0769-60

16 February 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR : Acting Chief, DPD  
SUBJECT : Development Branch Activity Report, 8 - 12 February 1960

1. DCIAC:

a. The DCI approved the OXCART Activity Program Supplement No. 1.

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b. On 8 February, Messrs. [ ] Kiefer, [ ] and Parangosky held a meeting with [ ] of Pratt and Whitney to discuss the fuel additive and control system proposal of P & W.

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[ ] indicated that a simple control system could be devised to meet the fuel additive requirement. He promised to provide a paper to P & W in support of this and his views. P & W agreed to submit a revised proposal on a controls development and test program divided into phases of work to be accomplished and funding requirements for each phase. By adopting the phase approach, it will be possible to program courses of action and fund succeeding phases in an economical manner.

c. On 12 February, Minneapolis-Honeywell personnel reviewed with Mr. C. L. Johnson technical requirements and the cost proposal for an autopilot, inertial navigation and controls system. By recommending reductions in certain areas, Mr. Johnson states that the Minneapolis-Honeywell cost proposal can be reduced to [ ]. Mr. Johnson feels that this price range is a reasonable one. A meeting with Minneapolis-Honeywell and Project Headquarters personnel has been scheduled for 17 February to review the Minneapolis-Honeywell proposals.

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d. On 12 February, Dr. Scott and [ ] of Perkin-Elmer met with Messrs. Kiefer, [ ] and Parangosky at Project Headquarters to discuss the newly revised P & E proposal. The proposal cost, for six cameras including a prototype and based on the assumption that a window consisting of a single piece of quartz will prove satisfactory, is [ ]. In addition, capital equipment and tooling required amounts to [ ]. However, some of these requirements can be met by GFE.

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a. [redacted] advised that Messrs. Macy, Vostich, and Eckart of The Bureau of the Budget will visit DPD 15 February concerning OXCART. The BOB wishes to clarify if further Presidential approval is necessary concerning "go-ahead" for OXCART. In preparation for this meeting, the Acting Chief, DPD raised the issue with the DCI and Deputy DCI. The consensus of opinion supported the view held in the DPD that further Presidential approval is not required.

f. Arrangements were made to have Colonel Hood of AEC visit an AEC site near Knoxville, Tennessee, with two LOCOMOTOR representatives for the purpose of ascertaining AEC/Union Carbide experience in forging and processing large billets. Mr. C. L. Johnson is interested in determining if there exists a reliable process for forging titanium billets for the OXCART A-12 aircraft landing gear.

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e. Pratt & Whitney facilities at West Palm Beach were visited by [redacted] for orientation purposes and review of the following general areas: Exhaust Gas Ionization, Engine Performance Design Concept, Ejector Design Concept, Engine Control and Control Integration, Engine and Airframe Coordination, Proposed Test Program and Facilities, and Fuel. The Fuel subject was not reviewed because of the absence of P & W personnel responsible for the fuel aspect of the program.

2. CORONA:

Investigation of the cause of failure of 1052 indicated failure of the Thor to fire for its predicted period. Probably also the separation of the umbilical from the Agave damaged the latter and the launch would have failed for this reason as well. 1054 carrying a camera is scheduled for 19 March. The camera was accepted even though the [redacted] test was not completely successful on account of film welding on the supply spool. This welding was determined to have been caused by the introduction in some manner of foreign matter between film loops and this was decided to have been irrelevant to the operation of the camera.

3. AMCON:

A meeting was held at Fairchild to review progress with regard to lens production which now is the pacing factor. It will be known in the next ten (10) days whether flight slippage from late July is probable.

4. [redacted]

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